

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 SIG-03 MMO-01 PM-05
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DRAFTED BY AF/C:REGRIBBIN:DMA
APPROVED BY AF/C:LDJUNIOR

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P R 082153Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
USCINCEUR
JCS WASHDC 0396
SECDEF WASHDC 0481
CINCMAC SCOTT AFB

S E C R E T STATE 145875

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:MOPS, CG, CT

SUBJECT: AFRICAN AIRLIFT

REF: (A) PARIS 17703 (B) PARIS 18214

1. AMBASSADOR MAIDOU OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE CALLED
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ON AF/C DIRECTOR JUNIOR JUNE 7 TO OBTAIN AN UPDATE ON
GOCAE'S REQUEST TO USG FOR TRANSPORT OF 500 TROOPS TO SHABA.

2. MAIDOU NOTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS VERY CONCERNED
WITH SITUATION IN ZAIRE AND THAT DESIGNATED TROOPS ARE
READY AND WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN A STABILIZATION FORCE.
JUNIOR RECOUNTED DEVELOPMENT AND ORGANIZATION OF FORCE

STRESSING KEY ROLE OF FRANCE IN COORDINATING PARTICIPANTS AND TRANSPORT. HE NOTED THAT U.S. IS PROVIDING TRANSPORT AS PROPOSED BY FRANCE. OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE AIRLIFT ARE HANDLED BY THE U.S. EUROPEAN HEADQUARTERS IN STUTTGART IN CLOSE LIAISON WITH GOF WHICH HAS COORDINATING RESPONSIBILITY WITH AFRICAN STATES CONCERNED.

3. PRESSED ON QUESTION OF EQUIPMENT, MAIDOU REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF WHAT THE TROOPS MIGHT HAVE IN THE WAY OF

EQUIPMENT TO TAKE WITH THEM. HE ASSUMED THAT LITTLE EQUIPMENT WAS AVAILABLE AND THAT CAE TROOPS WOULD RELY ON SUPPLIES PROVIDED BY FAZ OR FRANCE. JUNIOR NOTED THAT FEW IF ANY GOZ MILITARY SUPPLIES WERE AVAILABLE IN ZAIRE. IN CLOSING WE AGREED TO REQUEST INFORMATION FROM EUROPE CONCERNING STATUS OF GOCAE REQUEST.

4. SUBSEQUENT TO MAIDOU'S CALL, REFTEL B CONFIRMS UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S TALK WITH GENERAL VANBREMEERSCH ON JUNE 4, IN WHICH IT WAS AGREED THAT FRANCE WOULD FIND MEANS TO MEET GOCAE'S REQUEST.

5. FOR KINSHASA: AS BANGUI WELL WITHIN RANGE OF ZAIRIAN C-130'S, GOZ MIGHT WISH TO UNDERLINE ITS COMMITMENT TO RECEIVING ASSISTANCE FROM ITS NEIGHBORS BY PROVIDING AIRLIFT.

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6. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT CAE PARTICIPATION IN SHABA IS DESIRABLE. ZAIRE AND CAE HAVE CLOSE LINKS AND GOCAE CLEARLY WANTS TO PROVIDE ALL THE ASSISTANCE IT CAN. FROM A WIDER PERSPECTIVE SUCH PARTICIPATION CANNOT HELP BUT BUFF UP THE CAE'S TARNISHED IMAGE. HOWEVER, CAE'S PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL IMAGE IS SUCH THAT WE PREFER TO AVOID THE QUERIES AND CONTROVERSIES USG LIFT OF CAE TROOPS MIGHT RAISE. VANCE

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